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remarked: "Mathematical methods when used by the non-mathematical statistician are as dangerous as a razor in the hands of an infant." The unfinished state of the theory of correlation, the fact that the teaching of the so-called theory of probabilities has not advanced in most of our universities beyond the elements as given in the average high-school or college algebra, the slight attention paid to mathematical-statistical logic in the United States, are sufficient reasons why the newly-introduced student should not be given an opportunity to confound himself with rule-of-thumb "statistical methods." On page 411, Professor Whipple says: "The student will find the use of the coefficient of correlation an admirable weapon for exploding false theories," and as an example, states that a coefficient of correlation of 0.54 between a series of grippe outbreaks in one year and of measles epidemics the next year, is "low correlation." He says: "It follows, therefore, that the statement that grippe is followed by measles a year later has little to substantiate it, if all the facts are considered." A coefficient of 0.54 is by no means "low."

Furthermore, the "correlation" was made from records of only 123 and 184 deaths in the two series, respectively, arranged in twelve pairs and for the state of Connecticut. Would it not have been better to show the need for more data by attaching the "probable error" of this particular coefficient 0.54? Then, again, would it not have been wise to ask for a tabulation of both grippe and measles facts by months instead of by calendar years, over a wider area so that the true periodicity of these diseases could have been shown? Epidemics do not respect artificial calendar year limits. It is not clear why the simpler method of "grade" or "rank" correlation (Spearman's method) was overlooked. Unless the student or public health official or statistician has been disciplined by a sound training and much experience in the basic mathematical studies and in higher statistical analytics and logic, he had better not undertake to support or explode theories of disease relationship and causality. It is much the wiser course to draw extremely reserved, common-sense conclusions from inspection of the crude data, leaving the testing, graduation and logical analysis to the professional statistician.

E. W. KOFF.

Decennial Census of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1915. Taken under the direction of Charles F. Gettemy, Director of the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics. Boston, Wright and Potter, 1918. Pp. ix+749, with map.

Massachusetts, in successfully taking a census of the population and principal material resources of the Commonwealth in a manner which merits the confidence of the student in the political and social sciences has again succeeded in doing something that no other American state has ever done. It would be idle to designate the states which in 1915 and in prior years failed more or less conspicuously in this important function of government. We can only hope that a sufficient number of the members of this Association in the several states, other than Massachusetts, will take the trouble to inquire, first, why there is no provision for taking an inventory of the human resources of their particular states at times midway between the federal enumerations, and, second, in case there is constitutional or sporadic legislative provision for a state census, why the methods of enumeration and general organization are so grossly defective, and why the published results are inadequate to meet the most elementary needs of state government. A state government cannot afford to fail to provide students of its problems with the most rudimentary facts as to the size of the population and its composition as to citizenship, nativity, color or race, sex, age, civil condition and occupation.

For a text on principles and methods of State Census-taking, inquirers should be referred to Mr. Gettemy's able "general introduction" to the 1915 census volume of his state. After an explanatory note on censuses of the Commonwealth from the earliest times, Mr. Gettemy discusses: purposes and scope of the census; provisions of the 1915 Census Act; organization and personnel of the census; publicity, preparation of schedules and forms, division of the state into enumeration districts, and selection of the field force. The actual enumeration processes and the methods of supervising enumerators' work, preventing fraudulent practices and duplication of enumeration, checking enumerators' errors, etc., are described. In this work of mapping enumeration districts, choosing, instructing and supervising the enumerators, most of the other state censuses fail utterly. The direction of the task of taking a census requires the services of a trained population statistician. Because of the very backward condition of state statistics, such service is rarely, if ever, obtainable from within the state government.

An interesting discussion of the system of card punching, verification and machine tabulation is given on pages 24 to 26.

In addition to a census of "the population and the number of legal voters, in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, and the collection of such additional information relative to the composition of the population as might be deemed expedient by the Director of the Bureau," a census of fisheries and of commerce, a special investigation on the subject of aged dependents, a list of veterans of the Civil War and a list of blind persons were prepared. The special subjects represented in the many good tables shown in the volume cannot be listed here in full.

The first thirteen tables give information on the total population of the several civil divisions of Massachusetts according to sex, families, dwellings, density of population and housing within various municipal, judicial and congressional districts. The second section, seven parts of Table 14, shows the nativity, color, parentage, literacy, voting age, and general occupation classes of the population. Further elaboration of these elements is given in Tables 15 to 26. Detailed occupation statistics are presented in Tables 27 to 29. The Bureau of the Census classification of occupations, used in compiling the statistics shown in Volume IV, Thirteenth Decennial Census of the United States, was followed in the tabulation of the Massachusetts results. An important difference in the age limits of the federal and state statistics is to be noted. The federal figures for 1910 show occupations of gainfully employed persons ten years of age and over, whereas the Massachusetts 1915 data relate to persons fourteen years of age and over.

Appendix A gives the Act enabling the 1915 Census. The cards upon which the enumerators recorded the population data are shown in facsimile in Appendix E, while Appendix F consists of an historical survey of census taking in Massachusetts. The various methods adopted since 1780 for determining and apportioning the membership of the Commonwealth House of Representatives, the Senate and the Governor's Council are described. A bibliography of Massachusetts censuses concludes the work.

E. W. KOPF.